

**AIRGRAM**

FILMED

TO:	HANDLING	CLASSIFICATION <b>LIMITED OFFICIAL USE</b>	MESSAGE REFERENCE NO. <b>A-218</b>
	REPRODUCE 1 PG ENCL. <b>DEPARTMENT OF STATE</b>		
FROM:	<b>AMEMBASSY OTTAWA</b>		DATE: <b>MAY 10 1974</b>
E.O. 11652:	<b>N/A</b>		
TAGS:	<b>PBOR, CA</b>		
SUBJECT:	<b>Canada Claims to Assert Sovereignty in Arctic</b>		
REF:			
<b>DEPT. DISTRIBUTION</b> <b>ORIGIN/ACTION</b> <i>Cur 6</i>			
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The local press has recently reported the successful conclusion of one of Canada's more unusual Arctic expeditions: the planting of the Canadian flag, presumably upside down, on the underside of the Arctic ice cap about one to five miles south of the geographic North Pole.

Led by Prime Minister Trudeau's scuba diving buddy, Dr. Joseph MacInnis, a team of North Pole divers spent three days hacking their way through ice. ("We started hacking away. When the chisel broke through the water and it started gushing, we were going crazy..."). The National Film Board recorded the historic event. A flag was subsequently placed on the underside of the ice cap, which resembles an "upside-down mountain range."

The only sour note was voiced by the team geologist-biologist, who said: "We didn't see any fish or any large things." This characterization presumably included any people who might have challenged Canada's presence under the ice cap.

Enclosure: As Stated.

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CLASSIFICATION

DRAFTED BY:	DRAFTING DATE	PHONE NO.	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:
<b>POL:EVHef/hfg</b>	<b>5/7/74</b>		<b>DCM:WMJohnson</b>
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At the end of the three days, the Canadian Air Force found them again "with little difficulty."

The Ottawa Citizen, on May 3, editorialized (copy attached) about the expedition! "...It wasn't a comfortable operation. The undersea flag... will be seen only by micro-organisms... Canada's jurisdiction over all the waters to the North Pole is still questioned, especially in Washington. We must hope that, in addition to the North Pole micro-organisms, the officials in Washington will have got the message."

WmJ

PORTER

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Enclosure to:

OTTAWA A-218

OTTAWA CITIZEN - MAY 3, 1974

## It's our Arctic

OTTAWA CITIZEN  
The North Pole diving expedition which showed the flag both above and below the ice will help establish Canada's territorial claim. This runs in an apex drawn from the western border of the Yukon and the eastern shore of Ellesmere Island to the North Pole.

5/3/74  
It wasn't a comfortable operation. The undersea flag, planted after the divers cut through the ice, will be seen only by micro-organisms.

Canada intends to exercise control over shipping in the high Arctic. The main concern is to prevent pollution. Exploitation of undersea mineral resources is another. But Canada's jurisdiction over all the waters to the North Pole is still questioned, especially in Washington. We must hope that, in addition to the North Pole micro-organisms, the officials in Washington will have got the message.